

First Communion



*Catalina Baarda
Emma Brindisi
Ariana Byrnes
Joshua Friend
John Hanlon
Sebastian Janusz
Evan Latuga
Leigha Lemoine*

*Michael Lulu
Jared Magnusson
Alyson Marcinkus
Luke Olszta
Benjamin Rucho
Zachary Sirard
Alex Soucy
Lillyanne Thompson-Forbes*

St. Roch Church

May 21, 2017

Mass Intentions for the Week

Saturday, May 20, 2017
 4:00 PM Mother's Day Novena
Sunday, May 21, 2017
 8:30 AM Mother's Day Novena
 11:00 AM The Mills Family by Paula Miner & Ken Mills
Monday, May 22, 2017
 8:30 AM Mother's Day Novena
Tuesday, May 23, 2017
 8:30 AM No Mass
Wednesday, May 24, 2017
 8:30 AM No Mass—Fr. Roy celebrating Mass at St. Paul's Cathedral
Thursday, May 25, 2017 Holy Day
 8:30 AM Mother's Day Novena
 6:30 PM Robert Morway by son Matt
Friday, May 26, 2017
 8:30 AM the Stolz Family by the family
Saturday, May 27, 2017
 4:00 PM All the deceased who have served in the Armed Services by Robbins Family
Sunday, May 28, 2017
 8:30 AM Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Guertin, Edward, George, Lawrence Guertin
 by Mrs. Ronald Pelletier
 11:00 AM Mary & Ralph Palmieri by the family

Scripture Readings
Sunday, May 14
 Acts 6:1-7
 1 Pt 2:4-9
 Jn 14:1-12
Monday, May 15
 Acts 16:11-15, Jn 15:26-16:4a
Tuesday, May 16
 Acts 16:22-34
 Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday, May 17
 Acts 17:15, 22-18:1
 Jn 16:12-15
Thursday, May 18
 Acts 1:1-11
 Mt 28:16-20
Friday, May 19
 Acts 18:9-18
 Jn 16:20-23
Saturday, May 20
 Acts 18:23-28
 Jn 16:23b-28
Sunday, May 21
 Acts 1:12-14
 1 Pt 4:13-16
 Jn 17:1-11a

PARISH DIRECTORY

334 Main St., Oxford, MA 01540

Rectory Office(508) 987-8987
 Fax (508) 987-8938
 Religious Education Office.....(508) 987-2382

Pastor *Rev. Michael J. Roy*
Deacon *Rev. Mr. Paul Connolly*
Director of Religious Education *Mrs. Terry Ann Renaud*
Administrative Assistant (M-TH 9-4) *Mrs. Teri Rawson*
Email: strochrectory@gmail.com
Director of Music *Ms. Anna Pizzoloto*
St. Vincent de Paul Society..... *Arlene (508) 987-2813*
Cemetery *Contact rectory at (508) 987-8987*



Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00 PM
Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 AM
Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday, Friday 8:30 AM
*(the fourth Wednesday of the month
 Fr. Roy has Mass at St. Paul's
 Cathedral—no Mass here)*

Confessions: 3:00 PM Saturday or anytime on request.
Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8:30-4
Pastoral Care: All the time

WEBSITE: strochoxford.com
EMAILS: NOTE UPDATES!!
 Teri Rawson—Rectory Office: strochrectory@gmail.com
 Terry Renaud—Rel. Ed. Office: strochoxford@gmail.com

Your Sacrificial Offering May 13 & 14

Offertory Envelopes (142)	\$ 3,414.00
Loose Money	450.00
Other sources of income	901.00
Total	4,765.00
Weekly Goal	5,582.00
Result	- 8178.00

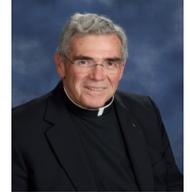
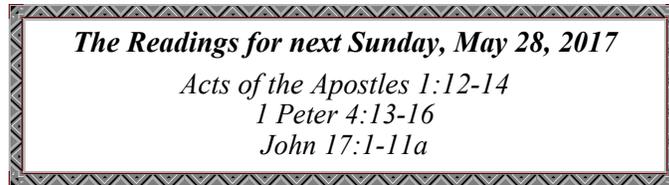
Thank you!



**May 25th is the feast of
 The Ascension of the Lord**
 A Holy Day of Obligation
 Masses will be celebrated
**Thursday, May 25th
 at 8:30 AM & 6:30 PM**



Thanks to all our parishioners who have made their gift to the **2017 Partners in Charity Appeal**. St. Roch's Parish is 84% towards our goal of \$42,800. If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, please fill out a commitment pledge envelope located at the entrances to the church. Or visit www.partners-charity.net. Partners in Charity, formerly known as the Bishop's Fund, is the Annual Appeal for the Diocese of Worcester, serving 30 charitable, educational, and pastoral ministries. Through your generous support we are able to serve thousands of families and individuals in Worcester County through outreach, formation, evangelization, and worship. Thank you!



My dear Parishioners,

As you know I was at the annual Presbyteral Assembly this past week. It was good to be with my brother priests and the speaker, Msgr. Todd Largerness was excellent. The content of his talks was substantial and I hope to be able to share much of it with you in my homilies. However, arriving back to St. Roch's late on Wednesday I didn't have time to compose a letter before the deadline. Therefore I thank God that I came across this well thought-out article on a terribly important topic and I hope you will read it.

Witness for Life

Our culture is trying to convince us that assisted suicide is somehow a happy way to die.

Our state lawmakers are currently trying to legalize physician-assisted suicide—again—with financial help from national organizations that have made Massachusetts a top priority. We need to be informed about the threats assisted suicide poses to elders, the disabled, and those with serious illnesses and how it undermines the dignity of all human life.

If a friend said to you, "Life is too hard for me so I am going to end it tonight," would you just agree? What if you felt like that and those you loved said, "OK, if that's what you want to do?" That is not love. We are called to care for those who are suffering, especially those with mental or physical disabilities, not to leave them in despair.

Think about the huge potential for elder abuse. Imagine someone in your family telling you what a burden you are, that you are going to die soon anyway, and you need to make things easier for everyone by accepting assisted suicide.

Think about being diagnosed with a deadly disease that is very expensive to treat and getting a letter from your insurance company telling you your treatment is not covered but suicide drugs are.

We are a culture increasingly turning to suicide to end our suffering. In 2012, four states had suicide rates higher than 19 per 100,000 people; in 2016, eleven states had rates that high. That does not include physician –assisted suicides—those deaths are not reported as suicides.

Suffering is NOT a requirement to request assisted-suicide; in fact, most people request it because they are afraid of having pain or being disabled, not because they are suffering.

Pain can be managed. A disabled or frail person has the same dignity as an able or healthy person. Why is it that if a healthy person says they are suicidal we help them to live, but if a disabled or frail person says the same thing then we should help them to die? No, they are people in need of our caring and support as well. Their lives have the same dignity.

We said "no" to assisted suicide in 2012. Now some legislators are trying to pass the law without asking us. But they will not do it if we remind them that we said no and continue to advocate for better care of the seriously ill.

Physician-assisted suicide must never be legalized. We need to contact our state legislature so let them know we do not want assisted suicide legalized. All the information is available at witnessforlife.com.

*Let us continue to love one another,
Fr. Roy*



Christmas in June

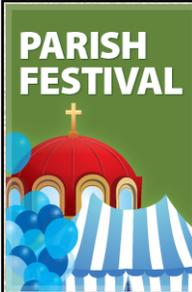
Christmas in June will be happening at the Sunbridge Nursing Home this June 43rd. We are asking that you take a tag marked “man” or “woman” and buy a gift for the residents at the nursing home. Some suggestions are large print books, pajamas, lap blankets, socks, body lotions, baseball caps, playing cards, sugar free candy, house dresses, etc. Anything that an elderly relative of yours could use would be appropriate. Please wrap the gift and return it with the original tag to the church **by May 28th**. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many people.



**Baby Bottle Drive For Visitation House
FIVE MONTH DEVELOPING BABY**

Your spiritually adopted baby weighs over one pound now. His mother can feel his movement now. Before he was too small for her to feel. Although he swam with ease in his watery world, he needed to be big and strong enough to kick hard against the outside wall and dent it—the inside wall of the uterus has no feeling. We are mid-way through the pregnancy now. Your prayers have helped your baby’s mother continue with her pregnancy and seek the help she needs.

The bottles will be collected on Father’s Day weekend.



**FESTIVAL NEWS
JUNE 24, 2017**

Giant Basket & Gift Raffle, Large Money Raffle, Scratch Ticket Raffle, Homemade Crafts and Gift Items, Homemade Baked Goods, Plants, Garage Sale, Used Books, Silent Auction and Strawberry Shortcake!

Lunch will be served from 11 am—2:30 pm

Chicken Barbecue 6 PM

Advanced Tickets Only

Tickets on Sale Now after all Masses!

Donations needed!

New items or gift cards/certificates for raffle table, homemade crafts, baked goods, auction items, garage sale items and books.

→ → → → → → **Drop Off Times:**

**Garage open M-TH 9-3 and before/after Masses
Parish Center open for raffle items & crafts M-TH**

Auction on the Stage

We are actively soliciting additional items and we are reaching out to our fellow parishioners for donations. If you have any items you think might be appropriate, please contact us **asap—Jim & Marlene Gondek (508) 987-5387** or send an email to jgondek@gmail.com. Donated auction items need to be dropped off **by June 14**.



Carnival

St. Roch Lot & Joslin Park

May 18-21

**Amusement Rides
& Games**

Thurs & Fri 6-10

Sat 12-10, Sun 12-6

Proceeds to benefit St. Roch Parish



PRAY FOR ...

Kathy Perry, Owen Benway, Irene Richardson, Jane Lewicke, Al Sinkis, Anthony Nguyen, Andrew Rivers, Raymond Joseph, Barbara Swenson, Chloe Barbara Jones, Craig Ladd, Ruth Andrzejczyk, Fr. Robert Kelley, Roseanne Ferlito, John Barton, Carol Violette, John & Bev Makowski, Dale Mahota, Maddy Desrosier, Phyllis Day, John Hickman, Stephen Rice, Timothy Bowes, Ed Carpenter, Cindy Flores, Liz Iandolli, Anita Prunier, Roger St. George, Charlene White, James Sumerlin, Bob St. George, Julie Guertin, Jerry Coffey. Francis DeSimone, Robert & Beverly Burns, Judy Rodier, Dawn Hoeg, Sean Bushey, Richard Fleming, Noelle Silverstein, Edward Wissell, Eric Lambert, Paul Murphy, Shannon Bernard, James Cadarette, James Quaiel, Irene Allain, Yvonne Mathurin, Jackie Sullivan.



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New for June~

Celebrate Father’s Day with these invaluable tools—

Video: Joseph of Nazareth

Book: Behold the Man—A Catholic Vision of Male Spirituality

Audio: Pure Fatherhood

Program: True Strength—Becoming the Man You Were Created To Be



Wishlist

A few things are still needed as we get ready for Vacation Bible Camp, and you can help... **white or colored copy paper and white card stock, HP printer ink coupons, small and large poster boards, bottled water, disinfectant wipes, and for Fund raising breakfasts: Aunt Jemima pancake mix complete, maple syrup, eggs, butter, juices, and sausages. Our kitchen needs napkins, plates, cups (hot and cold), plastic flatware, (specially knives and forks, and soup spoons), and both round and long plastic table covers.**



WOW the center really looks fresh! Who is next to step up? All carpets need to be shampooed, windows need washing for spring.

There are just a few areas left to paint: both entrances, both offices, and hallways.



The Family of Friends youth are raising funds for their summer events, next retreat, volleyball team expenses, and fall concert.



Fund Raising Breakfasts are scheduled each month: **May 21** will benefit the **Mary Kilinskas Scholarship**, the next breakfast will be **June 4**.

Please call **508-987-2382** to volunteer or to buy advanced tickets to help us in the planning of food.



Planning meeting for youth lock-in:
May 21, 10:00 in the parish center.

From the evening, when the youth arrive we will have icebreakers, prayers, community building games, snacks, movies, rest time, and breakfast, before we head home.

A lock-in at the church is an opportunity to strengthen relationships in the youth and have good old-fashioned fun. Planned activities will fill the night. Combined activities with spiritual reflection and community outreach will make the lock-in enjoyable and purposeful.

Please let the team know if you have any theme or schedule or sleep preferences so they can plan what works for you.

Call 508-987-2382 for more information.

OPEN HOUSE

St. Peter Central Catholic Elementary School, 865 Main St., Worcester will host an Open House on **Wednesday, May 31 from 4-7 pm.** Openings for Pre-K-7. Please visit or call 508-791-6496 for information or visit www.stpetercentralcatholic.com.



A Special Thank You to... our **Pastor Rev. Michael Roy & Deacon Mr. Paul Connolly, DRE Terry Ann Renaud**, volunteer team of catechists & parents, who helped with the First Sacrament process: **Kerry Connolly, Hannah Caswell, & Lynn Soucy**, office staff **Olga Brault & Nicole Daury** music minister **Anna Pizzolato**, our Eucharistic ministers - **Edward & Terry Ann Renaud, September Forbes & Eleanor Friend; Altar servers – Patrick Connolly & Teresa Friend Gift Bearers – The Children in the Class of First Eucharist, Ushers: Dave & Laurie Boucher.**

The people of St. Roch especially thank the First Eucharist class & their families for their donations to replace alter linens.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

July 24-28

St Roch Parish Hall

508-987-2382

www.strochoxford.com

Sign up today!!!



LIGHT OF THE WORLD REUNION
JUNE 27 6:30 PM
IN THE PARISH HALL

June 27 6:30 PM join other members of the parish who have experienced the retreats in October 2016 or March 2017 at St. Roch, to get together and celebrate the experiences we have shared. **Call 508-987-2382** for details or questions.

MARY KILINSKAS

SCHOLARSHIP

Family of Friends Youth raise funds for the **Mary Kilinskas Scholarship**, which is given to deserving students of Religious Education, in honor of our beloved catechist, Mary, who taught at St. Roch for over 40 years.

The breakfast will be May 21, 8 - 12 noon
Donation: \$4.00.

Applications for scholarships available at the **Office of Religious Education**, deadline **May 30, 2017.**

Send donations to Mary Kilinskas Scholarship Fund, 334 Main St, Oxford, MA 01540.

ATTENTION MUSICIANS!

After more than 20 years, St. Roch's Folk Group is retiring. We heartily thank them for their faithful service to the parish.



Now, we need to develop a new group or groups of musicians to carry on into the future. If you sing or play an instrument, are 14 or older and are interested in helping to form a group, please see Anna. Once we have enough people, we'll discuss the direction we want to take and begin rehearsing.



The Parish of St. Roch would like to thank the **Knights of Columbus** for donating a new wheelchair. It will be available near the front entrance (near the stairs to the choir loft) for use during Masses. Feel free to use it. Again we thank the Knights for their generosity and service to our parish.

MEETINGS

Festival Planning will meeting **TBA** in the parish center.

Finance Committee will meet **Tuesday, May 23rd at 7:00 PM** in the rectory.

St. Vincent de Paul Society will meet **Monday, June 3rd at 12:30 PM** in the church hall.



St. Vincent de Paul of St. Ann's Church **ADOPT A FRIEND PROGRAM**

We Need Your Help

Before beginning our Program last year at Sandlewood Center, our Town's nursing home, half of the residents had absolutely no one to visit them. We need your help in our mission to provide them with a little companionship to brighten their lives. Please join our program and "adopt" one of the remaining 6 men or 4 women to visit on occasion, send cheery mail and cards, and celebrate their birthday. Make a big difference in someone's life with the investment of just a little of your time.

For more information, contact Drea Holbrook at dreaholbrook@netzero.net or Tel. 508-987-2165.

St. Joseph School, Webster presents **"Into the Woods Jr."**

Students from St. Joseph School Drama Club, with the support of the Webster Cultural Council and the Janet Malser Humanities Trust, will offer Webster an amusingly different way to think about everyone's favorite fairy tale characters through their production of Into the Woods Jr. The show, featuring over 30 students in grades 5-8, premieres on **May 25 and 26 at 7 pm**, Bartlett High School. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the school, or by calling 508-943-0378, or at the door. You will not want to miss as we follow Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, Jack and the Beanstalk, and the Witch on their journey... Into the Woods.

Help Complete the Trinity Dome in "America's Catholic Church"

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is in the process of completing the mosaic on the interior "Trinity Dome" of the Basilica. You can see an artist's rendering of a portion of the immense dome that is the pinnacle of a church that has taken one hundred years to complete. You can be part of making this inspirational shrine "America's Catholic Church" as previous generations have done. Join with Catholics in the Diocese of Worcester in supporting the completion of the mosaic on the Trinity Dome. Visit worcesterdiocese.org and make a SECURE ONLINE GIFT today or send your check payable to the Diocese of Worcester with "TRINITY DOME" noted on the check to Diocese of Worcester, 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609. Thank you for considering how you can be a part of our Diocesan response to this National Appeal.

Empty Inkjet Cartridges for Recycling

We receive \$2.00 for each ink cartridge recycled. Simply place your old cartridge in a plastic sandwich bag and deposit it in our collection bin located inside the front doors of the church. Most businesses simply throw their empty cartridges in the garbage so check at work to see if they wouldn't mind if you donate to your church. PLEASE NO LASER CARTRIDGES. Thank you!

Supplying the Wine for Mass



John Tagg, who serves the daily Mass, has for some time been organizing donors willing to give \$20 every couple of months to pay for the sacramental wine that is used during the Eucharistic celebration of the Mass. Anyone who would like to become a Vintner for the Lord is asked to call the rectory at 508-987-8987.

How about making a *Cursillo* weekend?

Cursillo or "short course in Christianity" is an uplifting and educational experience. Cursillo was brought from Spain to the United States in 1962. The weekend is conducted by a team of laypeople and clergy who deliver organized talks and discussions. What the presenters add to the talks is the witness of their own lives, their struggles and triumphs in Christ. The weekend is full of laughter, prayer, great music, wonderful meals and so much more.

The next men's Cursillo weekend is being held June 22-25, 2017.

The next women's Cursillo weekend is being held October 12-15, 2017. Both Retreats will be held at the Immaculate Conception Spiritual Renewal Center in Putnam, CT.

For additional information and/or an application, please contact: Joan Laracy 774-239-2474 or Carolyn Galgano 508-847-7005.

